





A  
T R E A T I S E  
O N T H E  
S T R A N G L E S and F E V E R S  
O F  
H O R S E S.

With a PLATE, representing a HORSE in the  
STAGGERS, *flung*.

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By THOMAS PROSSER.

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LOCUPLETIBUS ÆQUI, PAUPERIBUS ÆQUI PRODEST.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

MR. PROSSER, *after a long and extensive Experience, now quits Physic, to engage in another Branch of Medicine (Farriery) to which he hopes to be able to render some material Services ; and he apprehends the Time is fast approaching, when Gentlemen of Education and Abilities will attend to this abstruse Science.*

No 2, Chapel-Row,  
Brompton.

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S T R A N G L E S and F E V E R S  
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**T**HIS Treatise is an extract from a larger work, considering the management of horses, under the principal disorders they are liable to ; intended to have been published, but retarded as yet in its progress to the public, by illness, and other employments of the author.

The subject is certainly every way of importance, to the state, and to individuals ;

duals; it equally concerns the rich and the poor. If the health and preservation of a valuable horse are interesting to a gentleman, as instrumental to his pleasure and amusement, so is the matter interesting to a person of inferior rank, on account of the animal's intrinsic value; and indeed many of the *middling rank* have so large a proportion of their property in horses, that they are not unfrequently ruined by the loss of them,—and hence we take our motto.—And notwithstanding the many respectable writers on Farriery, of late, and the present day, we have our views and hopes to come in for our share of utility; the proverb saith, “in the multiplicity of counsellors there is safety.”

One end of utility we propose, in practising or turning our thoughts to Farriery, is now and then by analogous reasoning,  
from



from man to animal, and animal to man, to throw a light upon each subject; for instance, horses *we say* have not the *ague* or intermitting fevers; if we can learn a reason why they have not, perhaps it may furnish a reason why man has. This matter I speak of with confidence, the idea having been mentioned to a physician of the first eminence, who admitted its reasonableness and plausibility.

In considering the disorders of horses, we take the strangles first in order, because it is generally the first disorder that happens to horses, and because we look upon it the only *innate* disorder of this animal. The strangles has been compared by writers on Farriery to the small-pox; we think it has a great affinity to the whooping-cough; it is more confined to an age than the small-pox; children only have the whooping-cough,

young horses only have the strangles; and these disorders are not so certain. Very many more escape the hooping-cough than do the small-pox, very many horses never have the strangles; it is by no means so certainly infectious as the small-pox, but perhaps as much so as the hooping-cough; there seems to be no more analogy between the strangles and small-pox, than their happening but once; and that circumstance holds also with the hooping-cough, and the infection in these disorders; the hooping-cough and strangles, have this *singularity*, of being infectious only to the young. The strangles we reckon the only *innate* disorder of horses, by which we mean, the only disorder the seeds of which are born with the constitution: (man has many, as the small-pox, measles, chicken-pox, and hooping-cough,) and no circumstances in life contribute in any measure

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to create this disposition to it after birth, however circumstances may contribute to bring it sooner or later into action; and when the constitution has once passed the disorder, it can never be reproduced. And we hope the wonderful phænomenon of our being subject to have these disorders, and to have them but once, is to be explained in this manner, or not to be accounted for at all. If we attribute these disorders to alterations taking place in the constitution after birth, surely this cause will operate to the reproducing of the disease, and this cause cannot be admitted when the disorder happens so early as at a few days old; and the constitution we see is as certainly secured at this early period, from ever having the disorder again, as it would be by its happening at any other time of life; and the small-pox takes all times of life, from the earliest infancy, to the latest period of old age.

Mr.

Mr. Taplin, a popular writer on *Farrery*, of the present day, after observing, no one sound reason has been given for the cause of the strangles, by any one, does not presume to introduce any thing dictatorially decisive upon the subject; but submits to the consideration of others, what appears to him to contain every just reason that can be assigned for the appearance of a disorder, attacking each subject to a certainty, at different periods, without contagion, or any cause hitherto established, but that it is so. “ After affording it every degree of consideration, Mr. Taplin is persuaded there is but one rational cause to be offered, why horses, at the periods before mentioned, become THEN subject to this distemper; (as for instance,) those horses, or colts, that have been constantly well fed, without restraint, for three, four, or five years, must, with their food, have im-

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bibed an accumulation of impurities; these having never been once agitated by evacuation, excited by art, or perspiration promoted by exercise, must consequently remain *stagnant* in the blood, till the horse's being brought into use for the purpose he is intended, when the grossness and viscidities, that has so long lain dormant, soon becomes perceptible."

Mr. Taplin will have this disorder to happen, with few exceptions, when the colt is *broke*; but it happens indifferently at any age before five years old, frequently whilst sucking.—“ The fluids are too thick, sluggish and heavy, for their distinct appropriation; the lungs are first over-loaded, a languor follows; to that a difficulty of breathing, or short cough, succeeds; and, lastly, the grand effort of nature displays itself in the disease before us; and that  
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is most judiciously made in the glandular parts, where she is nearly adequate to her own work. This rational process of the morbid matter (Mr. Taplin says) has ever affected him so forcibly with the idea of conviction, that nothing but a judicious, clear, and comprehensive elucidation, demonstrating an opposite cause, can ever reconcile him to another opinion."—This surely is altogether, *Farrier-like*, ridiculous and absurd; the small-pox we think has been attempted to be accounted for in the same manner. A man of science may be excused in asserting a speculative opinion, as Mr. Taplin's accumulation of impurities, and *grossness* and *viscidities* of the humours, in occasioning the strangles; but an opinion that is to be brought to the test of daily observation and facts, is surely no longer speculative: and Mr. Taplin's opinion of the strangles constantly happening  
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to horses at the time of breaking, and its happening to all horses without exception, I am sure every farmer, or horse-breeder, will tell Mr. Taplin, are opinions ill founded; and Mr. Taplin might have condescended to learn this from authors of reputation. Mr. *Gibson* says, many colts have the strangles at grass; and those that escape the strangles at grass, for the most part are seized, when they are first taken up and put to business. But if the disease arose from an accumulation of impurities, surely the disorder would not appear as it does, in one certain and specific form, but would happen with all variety of situation, &c.

Mr. Taplin ridicules the notion of *Gibson*, and *Solyfelt*, of having thrown great light on this disorder, by comparing it to the small-pox; but we think this not

an unphilosophical remark, nor uselefs and absurd, as Mr. *Taplin's grossness and viscosity of the humours*, the comparison of the strangles to the small-pox and measles holds, however; inasmuch as it is a distemper (speaking in the general) the constitution is to undergo, and but once.

The Classical Farrier now publishing by Mr. Merrick, (assisted, he says, by several eminent physicians and surgeons,) gives the following account of this disorder: “ Of a quinsy, commonly called the strangles.” We think this learned body, who-soever they are, that have lent their assistance to Mr. Merrick, have mistaken the nature of this disorder; for it is certainly quite different from a quinsy, which is a disorder horses are not subject to;—it happens to man, not in any measure like the strangles in horses, at or near a certain age;



age ; but in very many instances is a frequent disorder, happening as often to the same person, as taking cold, or other circumstances in life may occasion it ; and it is well known, that persons who have once had the quinsy violently, are ever after particularly liable to it. But I imagine neither Mr. Merrick, nor any one of his learned assistants, has ever known the strangles to happen more than once—I hope these gentlemen are much better physicians and surgeons, than from this specimen of their abilities, I can suppose them to be *Farriers*.

“ If the practitioner,” says Mr. Merrick, “ rightly manages this disorder, there is not the least danger but that the horse will soon recover. The signs of this disease (he tells us,) are a swelling under the throat, between the two jaw-bones ; and the mus-

cles of the tongue are very much affected." Now it appears to us, that the swelling between the jaw-bones is not a concomitant symptom or sign of this disease, but the disease itself, in its constant form and place.

In the human species, they tell us, there is much more danger than in quadrupeds. —“ In this disorder,” they say, “ an inflammatory fever ensues, caused from a defluxion upon the thorax, fauces, and parts adjacent.” This we suppose they mean to allude to the quinsy in man; but yet immediately follows, “ there are three kinds of the disorder, which gives way to the names of strangles, bastard strangles, and vives; when the internal muscles of the larynx are affected, without the appearance of a tumour, then it is called *Synanche*; when the external muscles of  
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the larynx are affected without a tumour, it is then called *Parasynanche*; when an internal tumour is impeding respiration, it is called *Synanche*; and when the external muscles of the fauces are inflamed, accompanied with a tumour, it is then called *Parasynanche*." These hard names, we suppose, allude to the quinsy in man, and not to the strangles.

Mr. Merrick, in his printed proposals and advertisements, did his work the credit of being assisted by some eminent physicians and surgeons; but here is such a confusion and mixture of diseases of man and horses, that it is not easy to perceive when one is spoken to, and when the other; and we are led to be apprehensive Mr. *Merrick* has been imposed upon by the plausibility of some daring empiric, and which we see daily practised with  
such

such wonderful success, not on the health, but the credulity and simplicity of the public. “ Whatever impedes or stagnates the fluids, immediately compresses the muscles, which brings on inflammation, which generally arises from obstructed perspiration, after taking a violent cold;—this is the cause of the disease. If no swelling appears, the disease in that case may prove mortal.”

We do not perceive of what disease it is meant here the horse dies, when no swelling appears; he certainly does not then die of the strangles; we may as well talk of the small-pox and measles without an eruption, as the strangles without a swelling; but disorders that very rarely prove fatal, are sometimes so, as the small-pox by inoculation. One caution however we deem necessary in this disorder, not to be

too early in opening the swelling, but rather to wait its breaking of itself, and which indeed we think is a practice now approved of by surgeons; and thus the suppuration of the swellings, and discharge of the matter being more compleat, a remaining induration and enlargement of the glands will be prevented, which would be a blemish, if not an injury to the service of the horse. “ But if a large tumour soon appears, the disease will be easily conquered, and a lasting cure may be expected.”—The cure will certainly be lasting, for the disorder never happens a second time. But to begin the cure, these gentlemen think it proper to apply an emollient poultice, twice a-day, spread upon some coarse cloth, and sewed tight about the swelling with a packing-needle and twine; bleeding and purging are to be omitted till the matter is all drawn away  
by

by the poultice ; after which, one, two, or three purges may be given ;—they recommend “ warm mashes from the time the animal is taken ill till the humour be dispersed, and warm water to be given the day the horse takes physic.”

Purging, we are happy to agree with these learned farriers, is here of no use, except in case of costiveness ; but bleeding we think is used occasionally to advantage, as when the swelling and inflammation threaten to be very considerable, the fever is great, and the horse in high condition ; here surely we are joined in opinion with the best writers, and warranted by experience, that taking away blood will forward the separation and suppuration of the matter ; and one authority that will be entirely sufficient for us on this point, we will quote Dr. Mead, on the small-pox ; Dr.

Bracken



Bracken also having given his opinion on this matter, in his *Art of Farriery*, we think it altogether to our purpose here : “ Bleeding is requisite in all imposthumations, or gatherings of corrupt matter, in any part of a horse’s body ; and more especially when such swellings are situate upon the glands or kernels of the throat, or when they endanger suffocation, or any other evil accident.” A fever medicine also will be usefully given once or twice a-day, or even oftener, as the exigency of the case may seem to call for it—a nitrous antimonial dose we think, of from half an ounce, to 6 drams of nitre, as much liquorice powder, or any testaceous powder, and from 20 grains to 30 of the antimonial powder, of the New London Dispensatory, for one dose, given in two or three horns of gruel, which will be necessary to dilute and soften the purgency of the nitre : Nitre given with-

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out this caution, will be very uneasy on the stomach; or to save the trouble of the horn, most horses will be likely to take this dose in a mash, or drink it with their water; taking care that a part is not lost at the bottom; if it is given in a mash, some lukewarm water should be given immediately after.

Bartlett's dose of nitre, in his chapter on alteratives, is from 2 to 3 ounces made into a ball with honey, to be given every morning; he observes, if the horse shews an uneasiness at the stomach after taking it, a horn or two of any liquor should be given.—Whether the poor horse shews it or not, he certainly must suffer great uneasiness in his stomach, from this dose of nitre, or even from a dose of one third of this quantity; this dose being immoderately too large even for the stomach of a horse; and we think  
Mr.



Mr. Taplin has justly censured Barlett's too free use of nitre.

Purging after the disease, we see no reason for insisting upon; this disease, as Mr. Taplin observes, is ushered in and attended with a hollow husky cough, the horse is dispirited, sluggish, and inactive: certainly so; and I believe Mr. Taplin will be able to find but very few disorders under which the animal is lively and active. "The disorder terminates, Mr. Taplin says, with a running at the nose," but there is a considerable discharge from the nostrils through the course of the disorder, before the swelling breaks, and afterwards, especially when the horse drinks; he is also frequently troubled with a quantity of viscid phlegm in the mouth, which he champs upon and endeavours to keep, or however he has no means to get quit of, as in man by spitting.

Mr. Taplin advises “ the nostrils to be frequently cleansed from their discharge, by means of a sponge and warm water, lest the matter by cohesion to the parts should acquire a foulness and foetidity, that would shortly becomes acrimonious and corrosive ;” there would be no harm in the use of sponge and warm water, but we do not see it necessary, as we never knew it used, nor any bad consequence to ensue ; this acrimonious and corrosive foetidity, we believe, is only to be found in the ingenuity of Mr. Taplin’s ideas, and not in the nostrils of the horse : Upon the recovery of the horse, Mr. Taplin says, he should be put upon a course of mild mercurial physic, if there are no circumstances to forbid it : this gentleman has given his reasons for cleansing the nostrils from their discharge, but he does not enforce the necessity of purging the horse with any reason ; and as we have said of sponge and  
warm

warm water, so we say of phyfic, we believe it not necessary ; no injury ensuing from the omission of purging after this disorder.

A dogmatical opinion or *ipse dixit* assertion from any one, we suppose would be very little thought of; it must be reasons, arguments, or evidence that establish the facts; these fairly brought forward, the public as an impartial jury will very readily decide with truth, or the strongest probability, according to the evidence before them; but Mr. Taplin's saying, purging is necessary after this disorder, and my saying it is not necessary, is saying just as much as amounts to *nothing*.—Purging medicines are necessary after the small-pox, and the strangles has been thought a *concordant* disease; but in the small-pox, the matter of the disorder separated from the habit, is diffused over the whole body; and when *confluent*, absorption takes place,

place, producing a secondary fever; and as a proof of the necessity of purging after this disorder, if purging medicines are not given in due time, a spontaneous purging comes on.

In the strangles, the humour separated from the constitution is thrown upon one particular part of the body, producing a large swelling, which always bursts, and a plentiful and perfect discharge of the morbid matter is thereby effected; and no absorption taking place, purging we conceive unnecessary; and we see no spontaneous purging here ensues, nor any bad consequence from the omission of purging doses. We apprehend Mr. Taplin's idea of the necessity of purging after the strangles, arises from his manner of accounting for the disease—in the *grossness* and *viscidities* of the humours; and his directing mercurial physic, we think, further shews it: but as we  
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take this to be a *gross* mistake, the necessity for physic, we say, has no existence; and we depend on the reasons advanced, for our credit with the reader. But Mr. Taplin contradicts himself, and refutes his own argument in support of an opinion “ that he has so amply and fully considered;” he makes the disorder so general, “ that it attacks each subject to a certainty;” this we have said is not true, many horses never having the distemper: “ And those,” he says, “ that have been constantly well fed for several years, must have imbibed an accumulation of impurities, or his grossness and visciduity of the humours.”—Mr. Taplin seems fully aware, that all colts are not thus luxuriously reared; as he says, “ *those* that have been treated in that way;” which certainly make but a small part of the whole, yet he says “ all have the disorder;” and as a small part only have been in the way

way of contracting this disorder, from Mr. Taplin's *cause*, whence happens it to the others, and very many of them half-starved animals? All we can say at present to this matter is, that giving Mr. Taplin credit as far and where we can for his *grossness* and *viscidities* of the humours, we are obliged to observe, that in much the greater number of cases, this cause has had no share in producing the disease; and Mr. Taplin must allow us to say, that where that cause does not exist, we must look for another; but as Mr. Taplin's book sells so very rapidly, we shall be in daily hopes of this matter being fully and philosophically cleared up in his next edition.

In the management of this disorder, we have advised the taking away blood, when the swelling and inflammation threaten to be very considerable, and the fever great;  
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we do not recommend this as an opinion unsupported, (a thousand of which we reckon not worth a farthing;) but we adduce our reasons, and quote the opinions of the first writers in physic and farriery; —emollient poultices to forward the supuration and breaking of the swelling, and afterwards to promote the discharge; but after the breaking of the swellings, a warm digestive ointment, as the common stable digestive, or basilicon, is to be applied to the fores at each dressing, spread upon clean tow or coarse lint, and covered with a plentiful poultice; the dressings will be conveniently kept on with a proper cloth, and strings or tape fastened to the corners, and tied behind the ears and round the head, a convenient space under the eyes. —The common turnip-poultice, a bread-poultice, or linseed-meal, with a little lard or goose-oil, will be as good as any; it will

be useful to singe the hair from the swelling with a candle, and which indeed is a pretty common custom with farriers; the proper diet of the horse, as mashes of bran or malt, will be apt to keep the belly sufficiently open; if not, glysters are the best means of preventing costiveness. Horses commonly swallow with great difficulty in this disorder, but corn, hay or grass, better than water; perhaps one reason may be, their not stooping so low to hay, &c. for they swallow water better when raised to them, than when the head is sunk low to the water.

Mr. Taplin's pursuit and our's, we observe, is the same—the promulgation and establishment of truth; and which ever side prevails with the public, the other will be meritoriously acquitted, in having well intended. If Mr. Taplin's system is not overturned,



turned, we will shift our ground, and avail ourselves of the opportunity he has afforded us of applying his doctrines and ideas to the diseases of man ; and then we will say, the small-pox, measles, &c. are owing to an accumulation of impurities, and grossness and viscidty of the humours : a difficulty seems here to meet us ; as constitutions in the purest and most perfect state of health, are liable to, and readily infected by these disorders ; and the habit of body being, as we suppose, cleansed of all grossness and impurities, by the termination of one disorder, the other often presently follows.

Since writing the above, I have had an opportunity of perusing *Bracken's Farriery*, which was become very scarce ; he gives us two chapters on the strangles ; and we have the pleasure of finding, we begin our little treatise with this disorder for the same rea-

son *Bracken* did so—because it is commonly the first disorder horses are subject to ; and we are careful to profit by *Bracken's* mistake, by making our present little work so short, that we may not forget before we finish, that we made the strangles our first chapter ; and so embellish our little volume with a duplicate of chapters on the same disease.

Dr. *Bracken* in his first chapter describes the strangles, and says, it seems not to differ greatly from the quinsy in human bodies ; here we have wholly differed from him, and to our reasons already given, we will add one more—the quinsy is a disorder that comes on in a few hours, or small space of time, from a state of health ; upon taking cold ; the infection of the strangles is lurking (like unto the *small-pox* or *hooping-cough*,) for a time in the constitution, before the disorder breaks out. He takes  
notice

notice of Mons. *Solleyfell's* comparing it to the small-pox, and admits the comparison; he observes, that most colts, but (as we have observed) not all, have the strangles; and he thinks, contrary to Mr. Taplin, that good feeding and nourishment are means of preventing, rather than occasioning the disorder; having bred several colts himself, that never had the strangles; and this seems, he says, to contradict what he had advanced before, of the strangles being implanted in the very nature of horses;—by this he means his admitting the comparison of it to the small-pox: we have considered these as *innate* disorders, which must mean the same thing as being implanted in the nature of the constitution. He recommends ripening and bringing the swellings to suppuration, or burst; and as Bartlet and others have copied his excellent poultice for that purpose, we will insert here

*Bracken's*

*Bracken's* emollient poultice :—"Take leaves of mallows, and marsh-mallows (green or dry) each ten handfuls; white lily-root, half a pound; boil these very soft in water, and press them out strongly; then take linseed and fenugreek seed, each four ounces; bruise them, and boil them in two quarts of water, slowly, till it become of a mucilaginous consistence; after which, stir and beat it up well with the leaves and roots; add four ounces of ointment of marshmallows, and one pound of rendered hogs'-lard; mix all well."

Bracken says nothing of purging after the strangles: he begins his second chapter on this disease, in telling us, it scarce needs any description, not because he had described it in a former chapter, but because he says it is known to all; but now he maintains another kind of doctrine, and  
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tells us, if the swellings are recent, or of short standing, the disease may perhaps be cured by the first intention, or by dispersing the swellings, and not suffering the humours to come to suppuration; but this method he proposes on the idea of the strangles bearing an affinity to the quinsy in man; and, as we consider the nature of the disorders totally different, we reckon this repelling method improper and impracticable. The quinsy being an accidental inflammation and swelling of the glands of the throat, it admits, no doubt, with all propriety, repelling means, to subdue the inflammation, and disperse the swellings, before there is any tendency to suppuration; but if the strangles be an *innate* disorder, or as Bracken has it, implanted in the very nature of a horse, it is, we say, the very nature and immutable law of the distemper, to produce a swelling, inflammation and suppuration,

puration, between the jaws ; and, by the bursting of the swelling, (like the small-pox, by pustules of matter on the surface of the body), to be thus discharged from the constitution.

We find Bracken, in his second volume, changing his sentiments, and saying, he is nearly of opinion, that it is possible to bring up a horse so as to prevent his ever having the strangles : we need only say to this matter, that he has no better support in this opinion, than several horses of his own rearing never having the disorder ; and to give this very superficial and weak opinion something of a proof, we find him contradicting himself. Solleyfell, he says, “ has compared the strangles to the small-pox in mankind ; therefore he imagines, the colts must bring the distemper along with them from the dam’s belly.”—We do not perceive  
that



that *Solleyfell* had any such idea, the strangles, he says, are the throwing forth of superfluous humours from foals, commonly through the nostrils, sometimes by swellings under the throat, or in other parts. It is, he says, a northern distemper; "bearing some resemblance of the small-pox in children:" this does in nowise, we think, imply, that *Solleyfell* thought it an *innate* disorder, or brought, with the foals, from the dam's belly. But we recollect *Bracken*, in his first chapter on this disease, admits the propriety of the comparison of it to the small-pox in these words: "No doubt, as it mostly happens to colts, it may, not without reason, bear an affinity to the small-pox;" but now he is become of another opinion, and says, though "that doctrine may seem like sound reasoning, on a strict scrutiny it will be found only flourishing upon the matter; for the strangles are produced by catching cold, &c." We

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must observe, we wish to peruse *Bracken*, or other authors, not for the purpose of refusing their arguments, by making them contradict themselves.

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## F E V E R S.

**M**R. Taplin observes, the necessity of some reformation in the practice of *farriery* never influenced him more in a conviction of that want, than did a thorough investigation of what has been said by the best authors on fevers. By the manner of Mr. Taplin's entering on the subject, his professing to have "given it a thorough investigation, &c." his readers are certainly led to expect something from him very much to the purpose. "Bartlet," he says,  
"purposely



“ purposely avoids giving descriptions of diseases ; or so much as guessing at the causes *within*, which bring them about.”—

Mr. Taplin with his usual severity towards authors, goes on, remarking on this conduct of *Bartlet*, “ What,” says he, “ could have been his motives for purposely concealing what in a practical treatise had every right to be revealed, I know not ; and what his reasons could be, he leaves entirely to the private opinion of others ;” making public however upon that circumstance one of his own ; “ that whoever is a stranger to the *origin* of disease, must be consequently so to every method and rational system of cure :” this he thinks clear to the meanest, and most uncultivated comprehension. Here I would ask Mr. *Taplin* what he knows of the *origin* of an ague, and his answer I believe must be, nothing ; and I am sorry for his patients if he is equally ignorant of every rational

method of cure : one of the first physicians this country ever produced, declared his perfect ignorance of either the seat or cause of this disease ; and I believe the present venerable and worthy *president* will subscribe to the same acknowledgement for himself and the whole college ; yet surely though we know nothing of the origin, seat, or cause of this disease, Mr. *Taplin* will allow us now, after long experience and observation in the disorder, to be pretty perfect in a rational and successful method of cure ; namely—by the use of a specific, which by chance, like many other important discoveries, physic became acquainted with ; and to direct us in a proper use of which, in this disorder, we observe the violence and duration of the *paroxysms*, the length of the intermissions ; and we have learned, that a perfect intermission is necessary to a full dependence on the power of the febrifuge :

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we are well acquainted with the means of abating the violence and duration of the paroxysm; and the same remedies will forward and perfect the intermission, and will be usefully administered in the time of the paroxysms, as long as they continue to return; the duration of the intermission guides us, or however should, in the manner or frequency of giving the febrifuge.— Thus much in reply to Mr. Taplin's opinion of the necessity of an acquaintance with the origin or cause of a disease, to be enabled to apply a proper or rational method of relief; and we believe, the small-pox, measles, chicken-pox, and whooping-cough, are instances equally strong in point against him: Mr. *Gibson* here comes in for his share of Mr. Taplin's strictures and severity on all authors he has consulted and quoted; Mr. *Gibson*, he says, contrary to *Bartlet*, (whose work, by the bye, is little more than an abridg-

abridgment of Gibson,) has obliged us in the very quintessence of prolixity and complication, by elaborately going through, what may be termed a compleat system of imaginary fevers; and transferring the observations and language of ancient authors upon the human species, to the constitution of quadrupeds; enlarging upon each subject, and concluding in an inexplicable jargon upon the whole; as, he says, does also *Osmer*, who wrote in later times; the few remedies recommended being left, in respect to quantity and proportion, entirely at the discretion of the reader.

Mr. Taplin, after reprobating with his usual severity, the conduct of *Bartlet*, in avoiding a particular description of diseases, or endeavouring to account for their *origin* or cause, acknowledges himself the impossibility of doing so.—Page 231, Mr. Taplin  
makes

makes public this one great opinion of *his own*, that “whoever is a stranger to the origin of disease, must be consequently so to every method and rational system of cure:” In page 233, “every intelligent observer must be convinced of the improbability, not to say, what might be very well justified, the impossibility of discovering by silent symptoms and ocular inspection, the *origin*, cause, or indeed distemper itself.”—Facts are stubborn things!

Mr. Taplin reduces the variety of fevers given us by other writers to two, the symptomatic and inflammatory: on this head we wish to give him credit; we believe the different kinds of fevers of horses to be few in number, in comparison to those of man; and we profess a much greater satisfaction in the perusal of Mr. Taplin, or any other author, to meet with ideas and arguments

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to admire and be pleased with, than such as we must think faulty and futile ; but yet we think ourselves warranted in saying, horses are subject to fevers not of the inflammatory kind ; their epidemics are frequently as general and severe as those of the human species ; and we consider the nature of epidemics to be very seldom inflammatory, witness the *influenzas* of our own memory : the last in particular, though most severe and formidable as well as general in its attack, was on all hands and everywhere found not of the inflammatory temper.

It has been repeatedly urged, Mr. Taplin informs us, by authors of repute, that “ every fever is one and the same disorder, appearing differently according to the various circumstances it meets with in different constitutions : ” much, he says, may be



be advanced in favour of this assertion ; but it not being his present purpose to discuss so extensive a subject, he drops it : what can have been his reasons, I leave entirely to the private opinions of others ; making known only one of my own—that Mr. Taplin's great abilities can never be employed on a more interesting and useful point. But we venture to say, we have fevers of a perfect distinct kind ; namely, purely inflammatory, and malignant or infectious ; and that the most robust and healthy constitution, though certainly not so liable to be attacked, yet if infection here takes place, the goodness of the constitution does not alter the nature of the infection, nor the consequent disorder. Mr. Taplin affirms, “ the fever of horses is mostly that distinct kind called inflammatory ; ” and we are of the same opinion ; not, however, granting it to be a rule without exceptions.

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Mr. Taplin here reminds every one employed in *farriery*, that frequently upon his learned decision alone, depends the life or death of this most valuable animal; therefore "he should not only be cautiously nice in the discrimination of disease, but, by attending minutely to circumstances, endeavour to develope the mysterious indications of Nature, cover all her wants, and strengthen every effort." This is certainly very true; and it must be equally true, that the best writers on farriery is he who gives the fullest and plainest directions for obtaining these ends; we read Mr. Taplin's book for that purpose; but here we have not a ray of information. "To become the more adequate to this task of integrity, the practitioner should be anxiously careful to improve his judgment, and adopt the known qualities of medicines to the expectation of their effects:" these qualities of medicines  
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may be known to Mr. Taplin; and I certainly was in hopes of being able to reap some of this knowledge from his Stable Directory; but I am utterly disappointed;—“to have in view, upon every emergency, the operations from which certain or probable relief is to be obtained; and to promote those ends by every *fair* and *gentle* means that may be justified by circumstances, or dictated by discretion.” Some men are famed for saying a great deal in a few words, whilst others are profuse and prolix in instructions, without conveying any information: Having lost my way going from Cheltenham to Gloucester, an entire stranger in the country, upon enquiring the best way of the first person I met, I was directed to cross Farmer John’s *sturt meadow*, then to go straight up the *zummer-house* field, down the *link gate*, cross the quarry close, up the *mill field*, and down the *mill*

*meadow*.—I flared; and my guide wondered I did not understand him, and proceed on my way. I said, I did not know Farmer *John* or Farmer *Dick*, or any one in the country;—but that's the way you mun go, replied my director.

Our Stable Directory says, I must have in view, the operations from which relief is to be obtained, and to promote those ends by every *fair* and *gentle* means that may be justified by circumstances, &c. &c. No one, I imagine, reads the *Stable Directory* to be told he should endeavour to relieve the sick and distressed animal, by the safest and most promising means; but to learn what those means are, and to have their propriety and promising utility explained and pointed out.

Mr. *Taplin* does not enter into a tedious disquisition upon the origin of Fevers, their  
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different degrees and effects, “ because it would exhaust the patience of the most patient enquirer.” To enumerate the causes which may produce a fever, would be equally impracticable in his book ; but observes, they are so much more symptomatic than self-existing, that circumstances and careful attention only, must lead to the discovery (those that can receive it, let them receive it); but we are told, there is not the least doubt but a general cutaneous obstruction, or sudden constriction upon the perspirable pores, proceeding from what cause soever, will constitute the foundation of every fever to which the animal can possibly be subject:—This doctrine can only be admitted in cases of inflammation; it certainly will not apply to contagious or infectious disorders. In respect to symptoms, he says, the inspection must be made with care and attention: the general modes of  
enquiry

enquiry are superficial, and, he observes, the decision often fallacious. “ The pathognomonic or certain signs, are, universal heat, and disordered pulse, disquietude and uneasiness, shifting from place to place; the horse labours under difficult respiration, his mouth is very dry, tongue parched and hot; he declines food, but receives water, the body is generally costive, and, in the early state of disease, there is a proportional obstruction of urine.” Let a fever proceed from whatever cause, the indications of cure are still the same. “ Diminish, he says, the preternatural heat to the degree that constitutes health, remove all internal obstructions, and, by a proper and judicious administration of medicines, (calculated to subdue the original cause), all dependent symptoms will certainly subside.” We are very apprehensive there is no absolute certainty in this matter; but that the original cause  
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of diseases, and dependent symptoms, will now and then baffle and fatally set at defiance all remedies, even under the most judicious administration of our author himself. And we do not conceive, with Mr. Taplin, the indications of cure in fevers are always the same; however, the ends wished for, are not always to be hoped for, or even aimed at, by the same means.

The first necessary step, Mr. Taplin tells us, to “ a rectification of such inflammatory or diseased state of the blood, is a reduction in quantity.” Mr. Taplin confines his ideas here to inflammation; and certainly nothing more concerns *physic* and *farriery* than does the doctrine of inflammation; but we think he had better have shortened this sentence by the two words, “ or diseased:” Does not this expression following inflammatory, imply a diseased state of blood different from  
inflam-

inflammation ? If it does not mean that, it means nothing. However, we take that to be sometimes the case in horses, though not by any means so frequent as in man ; and Mr. Taplin very well knows, that as evacuations, and antiphlogistics or cooling remedies, in inflammatory cases ; so a plentiful use of wine and cordials, in other kinds of fevers, diminish the heat, and regulate the pulse. Mr. Taplin affords us no assistance towards acquiring a knowledge of the degree of disease from the state of the pulse ; saying nothing of its *rate* in fevers, or in health : indeed, it is a misfortune in farriery, that a horse's pulse is not so readily to be felt and counted as in man ; Mr. Bartlett *rates* it, in health, at forty pulsations in a minute, a very few strokes over or under ; consequently, somewhat more than half the frequency of the pulse in man ; and consequently, we suppose, an encrease of ten pulsations

fations in a horse will constitute a degree of fever, equal to the encrease of about twenty strokes in man.

Mr. Bartlett tells us, “ the pulse of a horse is readily felt by laying the hand on the neck, a little above the chest, on the inside of the fore leg; or, by laying the hand on the near side, the beating of the heart will be perceived.” Whoever makes the trial, I believe, will find it very difficult to feel a horse’s pulse, either of these ways, except the beating of the heart. Mr. Clarke, a farrier of great repute in the north, in his late publication, says, the pulse of a horse, in health, is from 36 to 40 beats in a minute; and feels the pulse by the temple artery, about an inch and half behind the upper corner of the eye: it is here rather obscure; but I believe it is the most certain place of finding it, except by the beating of the

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heart. I am sorry to say, these gentlemen's account of the pulse is very erroneous; and I acknowledge, I was not so perfectly aware of that circumstance, till lately in a conversation with an ingenious gentleman, who is now prosecuting his studies in London, with every advantage of a medical education; and who, after spending some time in the *Veterinarian Academy* in *Paris*, intends returning to this country, to practise *Farriery*.—By carefully attending to the pulse of horses in health, with the best stop-watches, I find this gentleman is right; and instead of its being 40, or from 36 to 40 strokes in a minute, its rate, in a healthy state, is 50 or 52 beats in a minute. How the above quoted gentlemen could have been so culpably inattentive, in a matter so truly important and necessary to be known, as the rate of the pulse, is surely not a little surprising: however, the pulse in a horse cannot be thought

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to be quicker now than 40 or 50 years ago, or quicker in England than in Scotland. It will be necessary to enable a person to judge of the pulse in disease, to attend to it in some measure, and know its state in health; otherwise, though we can determine as to the circulation, by means of a stop-watch or minute sand-glass, whether it be quicker or slower than in health, we cannot determine as to its fullness and strength, whether increased or diminished. We now do ourselves the satisfaction and credit of being the first, I believe, in giving a true state of a horse's pulse; but yet we do not infer, though the pulse in a horse is so much slower, that the circulation is less rapid than in man.—Bracken is equally mistaken with other authors as to the state of the pulse; and considers a horse in so high a fever, when his pulse beats 50 in a minute, that he says it

is unsafe then to purge a horse with their common purging doses.

If the horse be costive, Mr. Taplin directs the immediate use of an emollient glyster, made of two quarts of water-gruel, half a pound of coarse sugar, four ounces, or a handful of salt, olive oil a quarter of a pint; to be given moderately warm. If this glyster has not the desired effect in four hours, Mr. Taplin advises a repetition of it, and made a little stronger;—which advice we think very proper:—in two or three hours after the effect of the glyster, the horse is to have a mash of scalded bran, with a handful of oats, if the horse will not eat it alone. —We do not see any reason for waiting these two or three hours; we rather advise, in the application of remedies in fevers, no time to be lost. Next, the horse is to be gently rubbed over, moderately cloathed, and well  
littered



littered up, but after having given him one ounce of *nitre* dissolved in a small draught of warm water, slightly impregnated with thin gruel. Mr. Taplin, we think, should have specified the quantity of liquid he would give this dose of *nitre* in, nearer than we can understand by a small draught; because the pungency of the *nitre*, in a small quantity of liquid, may be painful and uneasy upon the stomach even of a horse: we think this dose of *nitre* should not be given in less than two quarts of liquid.

Previous to his further directions in the treatment of fevers, Mr. Taplin thinks it necessary to say something upon the quality and indiscriminate use of that excellent article, *nitre*; the purposes of which, he says, are so frequently prostituted in its general application, by all classes and in all cases, in compliment to Bartlet's unlimited eulogiums;

eulogiums ; who has stamped it with his opinion, so great a specific, that a few observations on its virtues and *real uses*, become immediately necessary to the propriety of its future administration being better understood.

Osmer, he says, was likewise so infatuated with its reported perfections, that he became an advocate for its unlimited utility ; urging the administration of it to almost any proportion upon every occasion, though at the same time he confesses, some horses shall not be able to take the smallest quantity, without being affected with *gripes* or *cholic* : this shews the necessity of the doses of nitre a horse takes being well diluted.— That it is cooling, allays thirst, promotes the secretions, and is a useful assistant likewise in a course of alteratives, Mr. Taplin says, is admitted ; but how far it is eligible  
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to give it in fevers, in the very large proportions recommended by Bartlet and Osmer, will be best decided by his giving the matter a farther investigation; for instance, he (Osmer, I suppose Mr. Taplin means) urges the administration of it to attenuate and thin the dense fizy blood, during the effect of inflammatory fever, (during the *continuance*, we think it should have been wrote, instead of the *effect* of inflammatory fever,) and then in these views he is well warranted in its use, being a remedy in such cases most powerful and certain in its effects; but yet Mr. Taplin thinks, the consequence of giving such large quantities as *three or four* ounces three times a-day, must be, to so affect the system of circulation as to dissolve the very crassamentum of the blood, and reduce it to an absolute serum or aqueous vapour:—  
 “ These quantities we certainly think greater than any case can require.” That *nitre* has  
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its peculiar good qualities and salutary effects when prudently administered, no-rational practitioner, Mr. Taplin thinks, will ever deny; but the variety of experiments repeatedly made upon its efficacy, by the most eminent professors, since the practice of Gibson, Bracken, and Bartlet, has undoubtedly, he says, deprived it of a considerable portion of its former estimation.

It surely is to be wished Mr. Taplin had informed us what those experiments upon nitre were, by whom made, &c. &c. as by so doing, some of his readers might have been enabled to judge of their fallacy or certainty; and many experiments have been made (by ingenious men) on different articles of the materia medica, that have been proved very fallacious and idle; however, we venture to say, that those who make a fair trial of nitre, as a powerful attenuant  
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and antiphlogistic, or cooler, in inflammatory cases, will not be disappointed. We are aware of the light estimation it is held in by some authorities: an eminent professor of the present day, reprobates the use of nitre, as insignificant and trifling; and, in order to fix the attention, or to render his arguments more persuasive with his pupils, introduces a pun—"that it is frequently a very powerful sedative, from the mouth of a musket or cannon;" and in our humble opinion, and with all due deference, the professor's time would be much better spent fast asleep, than in inculcating such doctrine.

Taking it therefore, with the properties it is possessed of and entitled to, Mr. Taplin ventures to pronounce, its good effects can only be obtained by judicious administrations of such proportions as are properly

calculated to promote the purposes for which they are designed: Who says this is not a bold assertion of Mr. Taplin's? but it certainly is equally true; and to be equally bold, we venture to pronounce he may say the same of every article in food and physic; in the former indeed most of Mr. Taplin's readers, no doubt, are competent to this judicious and proper use; but in medicine, in an article so material, and of such consequential power as nitre, it surely would not have been amiss for Mr. Taplin to have favoured his readers with some irradiating rules and maxims, towards this proper and judicious administration of it. "The inconsistency (he observes) of blending it in large quantities, with medicines intended to promote perspiration, is palpably striking; as it is well known to every medical practitioner, its intermeditation would rather tend to destroy the earnest intent



intent of the whole:" We believe nitre is very properly, as it is very frequently, blended with medicine to promote perspiration.—I should hardly suppose Mr. Taplin has neglected to read the works of that truly great, instructing and useful author, Dr. Huxham; nor yet should I suppose he could forget so material and striking a passage as I am about to quote: When the circulation is too quick, and the heat of the body intense, he says, " you give warm diaphoretic medicines, to promote perspiration, in vain; but reduce the over-quick circulation and heat of the body, and a sweat readily breaks forth; and to which end, nitre is most aptly and advantageously given with the other kind of medicines:"—This, or something like this, on the subject before us, is the language of Huxham.

But given in small quantities, as half an ounce, or an ounce, once or twice a-day

in the beginning of fevers, Mr. Taplin says, with good nursing, it may frequently have a very good effect; but should the predominant symptom not submit to that treatment, no larger doses of nitre, he says, should be ventured upon:—Upon the non-submission of symptoms to these means, Mr. Taplin pursues a contrary plan; but he has not in any measure determined how long the foregoing method is to be tried.

Upon the non-submission of inflammatory symptoms, we think, instead of giving up the use of nitre, we ought to increase the dose; namely, if the increased circulation continues, the pulse is still full and hard, and the blood still fizy, we are warranted in taking more blood away, and persisting steadily and boldly in the use of the attenuating antiphlogistic remedy; “ but we think, from six drams or three quarters of  
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an ounce, to an ounce and half at farthest, every three or four hours; a dose sufficient in any case." The symptoms of inflammation, just mentioned, carefully attended to, are sure guides how long to proceed in this way; we have mentioned the propriety of giving the nitre in a good quantity of liquid, the state of the intestines is to be attended to, and Mr. Taplin's emollient glyster given occasionally; and if the disorder does not abate in two or three days, we would take more blood, a quart or three pints; and it being still fizy, we proceed, but think it useful now to add to each dose of nitre, from three to six drams of compound powder of contrayerva, and a moderate dose of the antimonial fever-powder of the New London Dispensatory, from twenty grains to thirty, or in its stead, from six to ten grains of emetic tartar; if it will be afforded, we would also recommend the neutral or  
 salt

salt of wormwood mixture, to be added to the preceding doses of nitre ; by neutral mixture we mean lemon-juice, saturated with salt of wormwood, or pot-ash may be used instead of salt of wormwood, six or eight ounces of this mixture for one dose. In the use of these remedies we steadily and diligently persist, till the inflammatory symptoms give way, then we judge no other kind of medicines necessary for the horse's recovery, but continue the same in smaller doses, and less frequent.

Before we quit the matter under consideration, we inform ourselves, and our readers, with the opinion of the latest writer, the Classical Farrier, published by Mr. *Merrick*. Mr. Merrick at the end of his book of upwards of 800 pages, to give his readers a still further knowledge of physic in the practice of farriery, adds a supplement

ment with a list of the most useful drugs, &c. and an account of their natures, qualities, and medicinal virtues. Here we find this account of nitre : *Salt of Nitre*—It removes all gross obstructions, and opens the pores of the skin, through which the hot and fiery particles are exhaled, and stimulates the ducts and glands to a more copious secretion of lymph, moistens the body, relaxes and softens parts spasmodically contracted. Three or four pages further, we have a further account of *Nitre*, under its other name *Saltpetre*—“ Now it is become cooling, and a cleanser of the urinary ducts, being a great diuretic.” Why Mr. Merrick has divided his account of *Nitre*, under its two different names of nitre and saltpetre, we do not see; surely he must know that salt of nitre and saltpetre, is one and the same article, sold under these different names, which is the case of several articles  
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of the apothecary's shop, as Peruvian Bark, known also by the name of Jesuit's Bark; yet surely Mr. Merrick does not know nitre and saltpetre to be the same thing, for he gives it different qualities under the different names. In his printed proposals and advertisements, Mr. Merrick did his work the credit of his having the assistance of several eminent physicians and surgeons; but we must acquit physicians and surgeons of having any concern, however, in the supplement.

Mr. Merrick, in his preface, speaks with uncontrouled severity and freedom, of his brethren of the profession, who, he says, "with ignorant prescriptions undertake the practice of horse medicine:" these men, he proceeds, "disgrace that rare character—a surgeon-farrier; and, under the assumed appellation of vulgar dignity, a horse-doctor,

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tax owners without conscience, deal destruction without remorse, and prove in reality, so many executioners." The indiscriminate and common use of nitre among such persons as have commonly the care of horses, is ridiculous and absurd: by some of these (knowing little or nothing more of the consequences and effects of large dozes of nitre than the poor horse that swallows it); you will be told, they give nitre to cool, without the shadow of a reason that the animal wants cooling. They give nitre to thin the blood, without knowing that it is as likely to want thickening; unless indeed, we are to be told it will circulate the more readily and easily, as water is more apt of motion than syrup or treacle:—With as much shew of reasoning, you may be told, by way of rendering the animal a more than common piece of service, it would be better to take all his blood away, it being

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but a trouble to him, and he would be much better without it.

They will give nitre (a medicine capable of impoverishing the blood, and thus reducing the strength of the constitution, more than any other article of the apothecary's shop, that is not an immediate poison) to strengthen the horse; if the horse is weak, from too much health and strength of constitution, (which may possibly happen, too much health becoming disease) nitre indeed, is then the thing of all others to make him strong.

In low fevers, or the *epidemics* of horses, when the pulse is quick, but neither full nor hard, nor yet the blood fizy, we recommend the same medicines, in the same manner continued, till the disorder is removed; but here *omit* the nitre, and take  
no

no blood, except a small quantity for the sake of knowing its state.—We look upon this moderate method adapted to all the fevers of horses.

Mr. Taplin with some inconsistency, reduces the fevers of horses to two kinds, symptomatic and inflammatory; he attacks this inflammatory fever with taking away blood, an emollient glyster, and one dose of nitre; then quits the subject to describe the qualities of nitre; after this, finishes his management of this disorder, with telling us, “small doses of nitre, once or twice a-day at the beginning of fevers, may have a very good effect; but should the predominant symptoms not submit to this treatment, no larger doses of nitre should be ventured upon;” and instead of, as we think he should (and from his own words, “the same predominant symptom continuing”)

“nuing”) encreasing the doses of nitre in quantity, and frequency, after this trifling pusillanimous stand our hero has made against this formidable attack of *inflammation*, he gives up the contest, and without any reason from a change in the disorder by nature, or even his own ideas; for he says, the same symptoms (of inflammation) continuing, he gives balls of mithridate, snake-root, and salt of hartshorn, every six or eight hours; or instead of these balls, a drink composed of infusion of camomile, Mindererus’s spirit, saffron wine, and antimonial wine, to be continued till relief is obtained, or *circumstances* urge an alteration in the mode of treatment.—I think it would have been nothing more than civil and proper for Mr. Taplin to have told us (and for my part, I am altogether in want of information) “ what the circumstances are,” that bespeak an alteration in the plan,

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during the use of the drinks or balls; our author says, small quantities of liquid, about two quarts, (three parts water and one gruel) should be given every three or four hours; in each draught of which may be given, half an ounce of nitre, or an ounce of cream of tartar. Very lately Mr. Taplin reprobated the inconsistency of blending nitre with medicines intended to promote perspiration; here he gives it to the quantity of four ounces in 24 hours, with mithridate, contrayerva powder, snake-root, and salt of hartshorn; and his professed intention of these medicines is to promote perspiration: He strenuously recommends this mode of treatment, as a system established upon the principles of reason and reformation; the result of attentive study, accurate observation, and long experience.

Mr. Taplin having enlarged on the nature and treatment of such febrile complaints



plaints as frequently come under common observation, adverts to the consideration of epidemics : As epidemics, he says, appear differently at different seasons, varying in symptoms, no accurate description can be collected from books ; in consequence of the great fatality attending epidemic disorders, he concludes they are more entitled to consideration as pestilential disease than any other ; “ and nature sinking under the *putrid* or *malignant* miasma, displays the oppression she labours under in symptoms so very uncertain, that no literary description can accurately correspond with.”

“ It will therefore,” he says, “ be highly necessary to attend particularly to symptoms, and proceed accordingly ; at any rate, blood is to be taken, (in quantity corresponding with condition,) that its quality may be the better ascertained ; should the intestines be  
obstructed,



obstructed, a gently-stimulating emollient glyster is directly necessary :”—To this we certainly have no kind of objection, the glyster we mean.—“ The appetite is to be attended to, and gratified in mashes of malt and bran, bran and oats, or plain bran, stirring into it four ounces of honey :” here also we join Mr. Taplin. Common drink, he says, of gruel impregnated with nitre, or cream of tartar, as before directed.

Notwithstanding the obligations we ly under to Mr. Taplin, Mr. Merrick, with his assistants, and other instructing writers, we venture to pronounce, that the present state of Farriery is not competent to the saying, horses are subject to putrid fevers; but if they are, we must condemn Mr. Taplin’s management of the disorder, as contrary to the knowledge of the nature of putrid diseases,

cases, and the established methods of proceeding.

We believe it requires no small share of experience and discernment, to distinguish between the appearance of one disorder and the other, when the symptoms are not strongly marked by the violence of the disease; but the disease acknowledged, we have we believe the universal assent of all authors on the subject, and practitioners, to the propriety of bleeding, and cooling, attenuating, antiphlogistic remedies (the foremost of which is nitre,) in inflammatory cases, and the propriety of the direct contrary mode of proceeding in putrid cases.

Mr. Taplin takes blood to ascertain its quality, and then, without making the appearance of the blood in any measure his guide, (or, however, we can learn no such thing

thing from his book) gives nitre or cream of tartar plentifully in drinks: we understand a very great difference in the qualities and effects of nitre and cream of tartar; if Mr. Taplin asks which we think most improper in putrid cases, we answer, nitre greatly so.

Mr. Taplin giving up the use of nitre and bleeding in putrid cases, (and we venture to pronounce he will do so), we have no objection to his cordial balls and drinks. "Future proceedings are to be regulated by symptoms and circumstances; increasing appearances of danger must justify exertions of alacrity and fortitude. Enlarge," Mr. Taplin says, "your quantities, and multiply your doses; aiding your judgment by frequent references to the different prescriptions under similar symptoms: you are to proportion your medicines by the dictates of reason,

son, and the degree of hazard to which the patient is exposed." We make no remarks, nor find any fault with this paragraph; for it really contains *nothing* to find fault with; it appears to us a paragraph of words without meaning: after a few *shoulds*, or *may happen*, of less consequence, Mr. Taplin comes to this *should* extraordinary "of the complaint, so relaxing the stomach, or debilitating the system, as to produce an irregularity in habit, bearing alternate appearance of health and sickness, corresponding in some degree, with the intermittents or agues of our own species:" What degree of similarity this alternate appearance of health and sickness, may bear to the ague in man, Mr. Taplin leaves his reader to guess for himself; and then if he does not guess right, it is not the author's fault; but Mr. Taplin speaks of it as a rare instance—as a possibility, rather than a probability—as an instance he has  
never

never seen ! And we further take occasion to observe, it is what he never will see. “Horses, we say, have not the ague ;” at the same time we take notice, this is not an observation made by farriers ; and we conceive, that if they had troubled themselves to form any idea, or passed a thought on the nature of fevers among horses, they must have made this remark.

Bracken’s signs of a fever are, violent heat, and fullness of the vessels, which will appear even to the eye ; a beating of the heart and flanks, much quicker than ordinary ; a dryness in the mouth, with roughness of the tongue ; continual watchfulness and restlessness.

In a symptomatic or simple continued fever, he says, depending on an increased circulation without any vitiated state of

the blood, those things only are necessary, which tend to lessen the blood's motion, and bring it to a more quiet and sedate state; therefore bleeding, in the first place is necessary; after which, glysters compounded of a strong decoction of fenna, and about a quarter of a pound of coarse sugar dissolved in each, may be proper, once a-day, to keep the horse's body open. Many drugs, he says, are not wanting in these fevers; proper bleeding, with the use of glysters, for about six days, will be sufficient to conquer the disease.

What he means by proper bleeding, we suppose, is to bleed every, or every other day, as the disorder seems to abate, and this method, no doubt, will often be sufficient; but we take the advantage, as *Bracken* himself would, of the present improved state of medicine, and join the use of several medi-



medicines with his method, which will shorten the disease, render less bleeding necessary, and be successful where bleeding and glysters alone, would fail.

Bracken very justly cautions against the use of purging-medicines in fevers, as likely to encrease the disorder; and they may be more improper in horses than men, by reason of their being so much longer in working off.—The horse is not to drink cold water, and the glysters, as he says, are always to be given warm.

Bracken tells us, more skill is required, to make a good farrier than a physician; what kind of practitioners then, must we suppose the generality of those professing *farriery*?—A number of rowels will be *clapped* (as the phrase is) in a horse, under the highest inflammatory fever, for the purpose

pose of draining down, or draining off the humours: Every one must perceive how greatly the rowelled parts will be inflamed in such a state of the animal, and how much they must increase the fever. Bark at the same time is given *to stop* a mortification (not of the rowels, which is not unlikely to happen); and, if the creature lives long enough, when the rowels discharge, and are exceedingly offensive and stinking, they are said to work finely, and draw off the corrupted humours.

Monf. Solleyfel<sup>t</sup> tells us, that vigorous young horses, of a slender make, are often attacked by putrid fevers, in which case they stupidly hang their heads, and can scarce keep their eyes open, they reel as they go, the tongue and roof of the mouth is blackish, rough and dry; a great heat is spread over all the body, their eyes are red, their breath  
hot

hot and sharp, and their flanks beat violently: The reader most likely, will wonder why vigorous young horses are more liable to be attacked by this fever, than sluggish dull horses of another make; we can only say it is a French account of the disorder; and if the matter is so in France, it is not so in England.

Monf. *Solleysell* bleeds in this fever immediately, sometimes, he says, in the neck, temple, or eye veins; and sometimes in the brisket, flanks, or veins of the thighs: The mentioning these different places for taking blood from, is (*pardonnez-mois*, Monf. *Solleysell*,) nonsense; the vein of the neck, being most convenient, is always to be preferred; as bleeding in the neck will have the same effect as taking the same quantity of blood from any other part. He advises the frequent use of opening glysters, and  
some

some cordial medicines ; but if the fever continues three days without intermission, you may supersede all medicine, he says, and throw the horse upon the dunghill ; for the liver is now *quite consumed* by heat, as appears, he says, by the dissection of horses that die of fevers : We imagine this gentleman to be altogether deceived in this matter ; we would rather believe, where he found (by dissection) no liver, the horse never had any, than that it was consumed by three days' illness ; if he found the liver much diseased, there certainly was the primary disease, and the fever in consequence of the diseased state of the liver ; and not the diseased state of the liver, in consequence of the putrid fever, as he calls it.

Under this article we shall take occasion to consider, a disorder not sufficiently attended to by farriers, nor yet by writers on the

the subject; and why it is neglected by authors, we do not see, as it certainly frequently happens; we mean the inflammation of the brain: this disorder we take to be much confounded with the staggers. Farriers, indeed, remark two kinds of staggers—the *sleeping* and the *mad* staggers; which last is an inflammation of the brain; the horse here is violently outrageous, up and down, rolling and tumbling about, with danger to himself and all about him. The first thing to be done here, (and the want and neglect of which I wonder at), should be to *sling* the horse, somewhat in the manner they are slung on board ship for exportation; by this means he will be easily managed, without danger of hurting himself, or the attendants, and remedies of all kinds can now be easily administered, which before was almost impossible. Absolute necessity has enforced the custom and use of slinging horses on

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board in rough weather ; and we think such a contrivance not much less wanted and convenient in this disorder : to give, therefore, an idea of the proper apparatus for this purpose, we have provided the best drawing we could, of a horse in a sling for our frontispiece.

The slinging of horses, we judge, will be found convenient and useful on many other occasions, in doing some operations in lameness, and cases of horse surgery, where a perfect state of rest of the limb is necessary ; a broken leg by this means may be as readily reduced and cured in a horse as in a man. It may not be worth a gentleman's while to be provided with the *machine* for *slinging* a horse ; but every one employed in the business of farriery should have the necessary apparatus in readiness.

Mr.



Mr. Taplin and Mr. Merrick, the latest writers, having neglected to take notice of this terrible and dangerous disorder, (which circumstance is a flat contradiction to the professions of the title-page to Mr. Merrick's immense volume), we will endeavour to oblige our readers with a proper method of proceeding : First, let blood be taken ; if it be a sized horse, and in condition, to the quantity of at least two quarts ; let the glyster before mentioned from Mr. Taplin, be given occasionally, if the horse does not dung freely ; or let the remedies for the fever be given, together with very gentle purgatives, so as just to keep the intestines free ; and from four ounces to half a pint, as it is given more or less frequent, of the common infusion of fenna, we judge will be sufficient ; let from six to ten drams of purified nitre be given in three pints or two quarts of thin gruel warm, with or without the

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fenna ;

fenna; and if it can be afforded, add to this dose, fix or eight ounces of the neutral, or salt of wormwood mixture, and we would also add a little coarse sugar or honey: this dose we repeat every four or six hours; and if the disorder does not seem to abate in a day, (or it may be sooner), we take away more blood, and carefully attend to its appearance; if very fizy, the pulse quick, full and strong, we steadily persist in the use of the fever remedies; and we would add the antimonial powder, or emetic tartar, as before-mentioned in fevers. The inflammation continuing violent for the space of another day, more or less, will warrant the taking away more blood; and we would now blister the neck on each side, a little behind the ears; the other medicines still to be continued. If the horse will drink, he should be indulged with thin gruel, or luke-warm water; if he will not drink, it must be

be given him. If it is at hand, we would prefer two or three quarts of whey now and then; till the disorder abates, the gruel or whey will be nourishment, the horse will not be likely to take any other; as soon as he will, let him have mild mashes in small quantities; when the disorder abates, (but not till then) the propriety of lessening the quantities, and frequency of giving the remedies, are obvious. It would be right to cut the hair away, and the horse being flung, we suppose there will be no difficulty in doing it, previous to applying the blisters; the blistered parts may be dressed with cabbage-leaves, or the common dressings for blisters: The horse will be kept warmer or cooler, according to the weather and season of the year.—With little variations, the same methods will be adapted to other topical or local inflammations, as, of the lungs, the liver, the intestines or guts.

Mr.

Mr. Merrick gives us the preparation of a fever-powder, which is Dr. James's, or an imitation of it : We certainly have no objection to the medicine ; but yet we think it idle enough to insert in a book of this kind, the preparation of a medicine by an elaborate chymical process, which is everywhere, or a substitute, in readiness to be had ; a gentleman, or others that want to use this medicine, most likely know nothing of *crucibles*, or implements necessary in chymical operations—or, if he does, he is in a remote part of the country, where such things are not to be had ; and however, time ought not to be wasted in the preparation of a remedy that is everywhere to be had ready.

Inflammation of the lungs will be known by the fever, and other symptoms of inflammation, as a full, strong, quick pulse  
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being attended with a difficult laborious breathing, and generally a cough ; and here, with the remedies for the fever, such gentle pectoral medicines must be given, as will ease the cough and difficulty of breathing ; and if a cough continues after the fever and inflammation are removed, that must still be attended to. Soft mashees with a little honey, or a quart or two of oatmeal gruel, with two spoonfuls of honey, two or three times a-day, warmed a little, or cold if the horse will take it better, will be highly proper, and most likely all that will be wanting, if no fever nor inflammation remains : that circumstance must be carefully watched ; whilst the fever continues, the drinks must be given warm.

Mr. Gibson very justly remarks, these complaints are very apt to leave a taint on the lungs ; and we have the pleasure of  
 finding,



finding, we have been exactly in his manner of attending to it;—but with the honey, now and then, he joins as much sulphur, which we certainly have no objection to; gentle and careful airings, he also enjoins, The state of the intestines is certainly here, as in other fevers and inflammations, to be attended to; and costiveness prevented, either by gentle laxatives, given occasionally with the fever medicines, or by emollient glysters: Strong purging glysters, Mr. Gibson says, will be apt to fret and inflame the bowels; and instead of giving relief, aggravate the symptoms.

Mr. Gibson thinks two or three gentle purges necessary after these disorders, to carry off the dregs and remains; now, in our opinion, the fever and inflammation being subdued, nothing remains of the disorder, but a consequent weakness; and no-  
thing



thing wanting to a perfect recovery, but time and care ; and, though we do not object to gentle purging after such inflammatory disorders, as wrong or hurtful, yet we do not admit of a necessity for it.

*Inflammation of the Liver.*—Dr. Bracken remarks it as an omission in writers on farriery taking no notice of the yellows, or jaundice, which is a distemper he says, both man and beast are exceedingly subject to; and he charges Sir William Hope particularly with this omission: but he has only translated Solleyfell; so that Solleyfell is the person to be found fault with, and not Sir William Hope. We have to remark of Bracken, that he has neglected to take notice of the inflammation of the liver; and horses, we have said, are liable to all kinds of inflammations: the vigour of their health and constitutions, the violence of their ex-

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ercise, and the frequent and sudden transitions from heat to cold, they undergo, render them particularly liable to inflammatory disorders; and yet such disorders have hitherto been but little regarded in books of Farriery.—Mr. Gibson observes inflammatory disorders to be not unfrequent amongst horses, yet almost wholly overlooked, or not understood, by writers on the subject, or the generality of practitioners; for horses dying of these complaints, have been said to die rotten:—And this we look upon as the reason, inflammatory disorders (as Bartlet observes) have scarce been mentioned by writers on farriery, before Mr. Gibson.

The inflammation of the liver is known to be a frequent cause of the jaundice: in enumerating the symptoms of this disorder, Bracken is wanting in one, and as certain  
a mark

a mark of the disease as any—namely, the appearance of the excrements, or dung; Mr. Taplin well makes out the deficiency of Bracken. The last-mentioned gentleman, who, notwithstanding must remain an esteemed and valuable author, says, “ the signs of the yellows are, a dullness and sluggishness of the whole body (this is remarkable both in man and beast), the horse breathes with difficulty, his heart, (he says) beats slower than when in health; he loses his appetite, and becomes poor, lean, and liker a dog-horse than one fit for business; the insides of the eye-lids, and eyes themselves, appear yellow; also saffron-coloured urine:”—to these we add, that the dung, though, as Mr. Taplin says, it varies much in different subjects, is in all many degrees paler, more indigested and harder than the excrements of horses in health; and this mark of the disease in the excrements, is

particularly useful in discovering the disorder in *blacks* ; we do not mean black horses—but black men, where it is not readily perceived by the complexion.

But to return to the inflammation of the liver : with the signs of general fever and inflammation, some of the symptoms above alluded to, will appear to point out the local affection or seat of the complaint ; the fever is to be subdued, or however, to be endeavoured at, by bleeding and the fever-medicines, recommended in fevers ; but, here more especially, we advise the neutral or salt of wormwood mixture, with the other fever remedies. If, after the fever is removed, the horse remains unwell, we are to suspect a diseased state of the liver, and to give remedies for hepatic or liver obstructions, as rhubarb and soluble tartar, a dose every day, from one dram to two of rhubarb,

rhubarb, and from half an ounce to an ounce of soluble tartar: The horse will be apt to take it in a mash of bran or malt, and it will not lose much of its effect by being given that way; otherwise, if it is to be had, we would give the dose in a quart of whey, and which we look upon as a very proper drink for the horse, three or four quarts of it a-day. It will not be understood, that we mean the horse to have nothing else to drink; the use of this remedy, or indeed any other, will be necessary for a time, and the shifting, day after day, from remedy to remedy, must bespeak a want of judgment in the prescriber; however, if the disorder does not give way in a week or nine days, or thereabouts, we would add to this dose, about six drams of Æthiop's mineral: this must be given, either in a mash or a ball. Æthiop's mineral, Dr. *Bracken* says, will answer when most anti-  
 icteric

icteric medicines fail, unless the obstructions be very obstinate, and the liver grown hard or horny, in which case nothing will be able to remove the disease.

One curious circumstance I will take occasion to mention here; and a very small acquaintance in the business of *farriery*, will witness the truth of it, viz.—what an amazing number of horses die rotten: more than fifty for one of the human species, I believe, are said, *I mean*, to die rotten,—rotten as a *pear*. Many horses die of the complaint I am now speaking of, and other inflammations and fevers, when the real disease is not suspected by the doctor; and these are all sure to die rotten: Sometimes the carcass is opened by the desire of the owner, and then the practitioner is sure to appear great in his own business, and to have judged of the matter in a masterly manner; the



the liver being a very tender bowel, which readily gives way and breaks to pieces, with a very small force, between the finger and thumb.—This experiment (I will not say trick, because the doctor really believes in the truth of his story) is shewn to exemplify this pear-like rottenness. One would imagine, I think, that it must occur to every one inclined to give himself the least trouble in reflecting, that the horse was quite well within a few days, or a week, of his death; and that it must be impossible for the rottenness to begin and have arisen to such a pitch, in so small a space of time: but, no—the rotten story, and a very rotten one it is, prevails; the carcase is skinned, and the remainder either thrown to the dogs, or to become still more rotten.

Very lately, an eminent farrier had the care of a gentleman's sick horse; and the  
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gentleman being dissatisfied with him, took the management of him upon himself: the Doctor told a medical gentleman, he had found out the horse's disorder; but as the gentleman had turned him off, he would not make him acquainted with it. "The horse," says he, "had the yellows; and I could readily have cured him; I perceived it plainly in his head: the *seat* of the yellows," he observed, "was in the head."—"No," replies the medical gentleman, "I think you are wrong in that idea; the seat of the yellows is certainly in the *tail*:" and, after a warm dispute, each party tenaciously and ably defending his opinion, the controversy ended with a considerable wager; one betting on the head, the other betting on the tail, being the seat of the yellows, or jaundice. The horse, however, soon died, no doubt, of an inflammation of the liver, and symptomatic fever.

During

During the continuance of the fever and inflammation, strong purging medicines will certainly be improper; but costiveness must be prevented by means of emollient glysters, (if the proper diet of the horse, as soft mashes, does not answer that purpose,) or by gentle laxatives given by the mouth, as infusion of senna and sweet oil, or castor oil, with a little treacle or coarse sugar.

*Inflammation of the Guts.*—This violent and dangerous disorder may be distinguished from a flatulent or windy cholic, by a high symptomatic fever, and the excessive uneasiness and pain the horse seems to be in; and with a proper attention to the fever and topical inflammation, due regard must be had to the seat of the disease, by preventing or remedying a costive state; for the danger in this disorder, lies greatly in an obstinate constipation of the intestines.

The cure properly begins with the taking away of blood—and that freely ; as to the quantity of four, five, or six pints ; next an emollient opening glyster should be thrown up, always warm ; and with the fever medicines, which will be given three or four times in twenty-four hours : according to the more or less costive state of the bowels, larger or smaller doses of mild purgatives are to be joined :—Strong irritating purges are always deemed dangerous or improper in these cases, in man ; greatly more so in horses.

After giving three or four doses of the first of all cooling attenuating remedies, (namely nitre) of an ounce each, which will be given in at least a quart or two of gruel, or some soft liquid, a little warm, and with it as seems wanted, to keep the belly open, from a quarter or to half a pint of infusion of fen-  
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na, (I mean, of the strength of the London Dispensatory) or three ounces of fenna to a quart of boiling-water, with a small quantity, or two tea-spoonfuls, of ginger.

If, we say, after repeating these remedies three or four times, the inflammation and fever do not seem to abate, but the pulse is still full, quick and strong, more blood must be taken; and nevertheless, though the blood already taken does not appear fizy, as that may be from the disease not having been of sufficient length of continuance to produce that symptom; we go on with the same medicines, and use the glyster occasionally, on account of costiveness or great pain and uneasiness, and we steadily persist to use these means, till the disorder gives way;—then slacken and diminish the doses accordingly; but if the inflammatory symptoms still stand out to the third or

fourth day, we are warranted in repeating the bleeding; and, to the nitrous doses we would add a moderate dose of the antimonial fever-powder, or of emetic tartar: We must not omit strictly to caution against any neglect in supplying the horse with lukewarm white water, or thin gruel, to drink. We hope these means will generally be successful; and we also hope, these subjects are here spoken of, in a manner that will enable gentlemen to proceed with propriety.

We have observed, farriers remark two kinds of staggers; the mad staggers so called, or inflammation of the brain, and the sleeping staggers: the inflammatory kind is already considered.

As to the *sleeping* staggers, or the disease so called, the present wretched state of farriery,



riery, I believe, can say little more of it, than—the horse forsakes his food, is mopish and stupid, and reels and totters as he moves, for a few days; and, perhaps dies. By the manner of this distemper going through a stable, and its frequent fatality, one would, I think, be induced to suppose it an infectious disorder; and I believe, this disorder is more frequent among horses that work hard, and are but indifferently fed, than in the stables of gentlemen: at times it has raged with a mortality almost equal to the murrain in horned cattle. Mr. Marshall tells us, in his *Rural Economy of Gloucestershire*, a few years ago many farmers lost all their best horses: a loss to the amount of several thousand pounds, was sustained in Staffordshire alone!

Mr. Marshall observes, he-goats are kept in the livery-stables in London, for the purpose

pose of preserving the health of the horses ; particularly as a prevention of the *staggers*. — This gentleman acknowledges, he has always considered it as one of those popular charms, of which wonderful effects are related in every country ; nor has he yet any proof to the contrary, but strong presumptive evidence ; which he gives, he says, on such authority, as no one who knows the author, will dispute : — “ About sixteen years ago, a Mr. Wm. Peacey, lost several horses in the staggers ; he was advised to keep a he-goat in the stables ; he got one — and had not for many years, another instance of the disorder ; but the goat dying, his horses again became afflicted with this alarming disorder ; — he procured another goat, and has not since had an instance of the staggers.” Mr. Marshall thinks it probable, that the influence of the goat, is not merely that of a charm : the staggers, he says, evidently

dently appear to be a nervous disorder; odours, he observes, are found to act beneficially on the human nerves; and possibly, he supposes, the strong scent of the goat may have a similar effect on those of the horse.—He concludes with recommending the subject for further enquiry.

Upon enquiry we are told the influence and efficacy of the he-goat, as a preventative of the staggers, is an idle story, much like the notion of rats avoiding those places where Guinea-pigs were kept; and certainly Guinea-pigs have been in great repute for this valuable purpose; but upon further proof of the matter it is found that rats and Guinea-pigs feed together as sociable as may be.

We are pleased here with this gentleman's analagous reasoning, from man to animal;  
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but he does not seem to be aware that horses have two kinds of staggers, perfectly distinct and different in their nature; it is what farriers term the sleeping staggers, he alludes to, which is evidently an infectious disorder, attended, we have no doubt, (though the present wretched state of farriery affords us here no information) with a malignant pestilential *kind* of fever; in all which kind of disorders the nervous system is materially affected; this is no further a nervous disorder. Odours, Mr. Marshall observes, act beneficially on the nerves; but it is more to the purpose to say, that odours are antidotes to infection: We are told, that in the time of the *plague*, *tobacconists*, and, I think, *tallow-chandlers*, escaped the infection.

Mr. Marshall says nothing more of the nature of the disorder than its being *nervous*;  
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one could wish he had, however, remarked the remedies tried, and the time the horses lived in common under the disorder, as one good step towards a knowledge of the nature of the disease; and by adopting Mr. Marshall's method of analagous reasoning, it will be found that malignant infectious disorders are more rapid in their progress, materially affect the head, and are more early fatal than inflammatory fevers; this will be found the case in the staggers here alluded to: the great affection of the head has given it the name of staggers. We have said, that the disorder is more frequent amongst horses that work hard and live indifferently, than in the stables of gentlemen, and that it rages at times with a fatality nearly equal to the *murrain* in horned cattle; and this we think we have sufficiently corroborated by Mr. Marshall.

In considering this subject, we were led to think this disorder of horses somewhat of a kin to the murrain of cattle; and wishing to prosecute some enquiry into it, we were surprized to find no English account of it in Chamber's Dictionary; but we are informed, Dr. Layard wrote upon it:—the publication has been long out of print; but we doubt not to find it sufficiently interesting, when we can meet with it.

In Chambers's Dictionary, we have this account of the murrain: "A mortality, or contagious disease among cattle." Murraings are occasioned various ways; but principally by a hot, dry season; or rather by a general putrefaction of the air, which begets an inflammation in the blood, and a swelling in the throat, with other symptoms: the disease soon proves mortal, and is communicated from one to another.

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The symptoms are generally a hanging-down, or swelling, of the head, rattling in the throat, short breath, palpitation of the heart, staggering, abundance of gum in the eyes, &c. breath hot, and tongue shining.

The most remarkable murrain is that mentioned in the Philosophical Transactions, which spread itself through Switzerland and Germany, into Poland, &c. The contagion seemed to propagate itself in form of a blue mist, which fell on the grass where the cattle grazed, insomuch that whole herds returned home sick; and being very dull, and forbearing their food, most of them died away in twenty-four hours' time; on dissection, there were found large corrupted spleens, sphacelous and corroded tongues, &c.—Those people who managed them, without a due regard to their health, were infected by them, and died like the beasts.

Some imagine it had its rise from noxious vapours, thrown out of the earth in three distinct earthquakes, perceived in the neighbourhood where it began; though Dr. Slare rather thinks it owing to swarms of volatile insects. The antidote for the sound, and the medicine for the sick, were the same, *viz.* equal parts of foot, gunpowder, brimstone, and salt, with as much water as would wash it down; a spoonful was a dose.

The same disease, we are told, that some years ago carried off such vast numbers of cattle here, and elsewhere, has at other times raged in Italy.—“ In the year 1710, and succeeding one, there was a great mortality among the horned-cattle there, and the occasion of it was evidently the unnatural season preceding; the grass was injured by this, and the ground rendered continually damp and unwholesome; and to  
this

this was owing, the malignant and contagious disease that raged among the cattle afterwards. It was supposed, that the contagion was brought in among the cattle, by strange oxen coming from infected places; but this proved to be an error; for if an ox was removed to ever so distant a pasture, he did not escape the better for it; the whole earth and its productions were vitiated, throughout the country, and there was no safety in any part of it."—Michelotti *de Morbis Boum.*

“As to remedies, (he says) when they are once seized with the distemper, it is hard to understand what intention to prescribe in, and how to ascertain the doses; and as the late practice, in attempting to cure, was of very little service, the caution for preventing the disease, ought to be redoubled, to prevent an almost incurable misfortune.”

Gazola

Gazola remarks, all medicines proved vain in this distemper; and such of the creatures as recovered, had always pustules or tubercles break out upon the skin, which ouzed out a bloody liquor.

From the whole, it appears that this disease was an acute fever in these creatures, and of so malignant a kind, that the texture of the blood was always broke in it. Many called it a plague among the cattle.

Instead of the great quantities of watery liquors usually given, the creatures should have something strong, as a mixture of wine, and that in considerable quantities; the litter is to be daily changed for fresh; no hogs, sheep, or other animals, should be suffered to feed among them.—*Gazola de Peste Boum.*

Lancisi

Lancisi dissents from this author in some particulars ; he says, that the distemper was a true plague among the cattle ; and observes, that this very plague among the *oxen*, was well known among the antients. It was first brought into Italy from Hungary, and infected the cattle by the breath, by the pores of the skin, or by any other passage that it found open ; he recommends great care that they have perfectly good food and drink, and advises the washing their mouth and nostrils with a mixture of vinegar, garlic, sulphur, salt, and juniper-berries ; he condemns all medicines, and even bleeding, but greatly recommends setons, cauteries, and blisters.—*Lancisi, ap. actu cruditor, ann. 1715.*

Franciscus Fantasti observes, that the oxen were seized differently, though the cause of the distemper was evidently the same in  
them

them all. Some of the cattle voided grēat quantities of blood by the urinary passages ; these commonly died, and all the humours were found evidently tending to a state of corruption. The only internal medicine he prescribes, is a mixture of theriaca, two ounces, diascordium one ounce, powder of Peruvian bark two ounces, to be given every day, for three succeeding days, dissolved in three pints of the juice of brook-lime, water-cress, and scurvy-grass, with the addition of a pint of strong white wine.

John Baptist Mazzini, wrote in another part of the world at the same time. With him, we find, the diseased cattle continually had a running of a mucous matter from the nose, and a weeping at the eyes ; and when the corners of these creatures eyes were washed with wine, in which sage leaves had been infused, there came out several clusters  
of



of small slender worms, twisted one among another. This author advises every thing to be done to promote perspiration.—*Mazzini, Liter. ad Vallisnier, de Peste Boum.* [See Chambers's Dictionary.]

These accounts of the murrain of cattle have been examined, under an idea that this distemper and the *sleeping staggers* (so called by Farriers) among horses, do in some measure correspond in their nature and effects; and any circumstance that may tend to exemplify this matter, we presume, will not be deemed foreign to our subject.

This disease of the horned cattle, and the disease of horses, under consideration, seem both highly infectious, and both have raged at times with somewhat similar violence and mortality: though we do not find this material circumstance recorded, how long the

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creatures commonly survived under these disorders, yet it is to be learnt, that the malady in cattle and horses generally proved very soon fatal, the alike great affection of the head, dullness, and sunk state, each animal suffers under these diseases; the diseases in each have alike tyrannized, and *lorded it* over every remedy attempted, with untrouled violence and mortality; but they do not seem to have raged at one and the same time. The disease of the cattle in this country was thought to be imported; they are here said to have swelled very much in the body; a circumstance, I think, not mentioned in the foreign accounts of it.

In Italy, without carefully avoiding it, the people attending the diseased cattle are said to take the infection and die of it. We do not hear that persons taking care of the  
distempered

distempered cattle here, were at all apprehensive, or received any injury.

We do not find that many physicians gave their opinions, or were consulted on this national calamity. Prayers were constantly offered up in the churches ; and, certainly, the raging of the distemper seemed to threaten a great scarcity of roast beef.

Lest we appear to neglect a subject worthy attention, we must introduce it here, (out of order indeed) and out of time ; and whether from a fault of the Printer, or an omission of the Author, the Reader will excuse this irregularity, if the matter is now fully and properly spoken to—we mean the *pleurisy*, which should have followed methodically, as it frequently does in nature, and in fact, the inflammation of the lungs, and requires the same remedies ; namely,

plentiful bleeding, and the same fever-medicines, with clysters, or gentle laxatives, if necessary.

The pleurisy we do not describe, because of the difficulty of distinguishing it in horses, a local inflammation of the pleura, with the other inflammatory symptoms, attended with a pain of the affected side; but we cannot learn in a horse, with any certainty, when there is a fixed pain on either side. Mr. Gibson says, a pleurisy and peripneumony, or inflammation of the lungs, are not easily distinguished in a horse. He also observes, the pleurisy is apt to be mistaken by practitioners for the gripes, or cholic. From the circumstance of the horse turning his head to the affected side, it is, we suppose the flatulent or windy cholic, here meant to be taken for the pleurisy; for if it was the inflammatory cholic, there would  
be

be little harm in the mistake ; yet we think it is not quite clear which kind of cholic or gripes Gibson means ; and we think it a very singular and unaccountable circumstance of this respectable author, that in speaking of these inflammatory disorders, he does not attend to the pulse, the most certain and distinguishing mark of inflammatory distempers, and of the degree of inflammation, among the symptoms. Mr. Gibson remarks a heaving and working of the flanks, and takes no notice of a difficult laborious breathing. We would remark the quick laborious breathing, and not observe the working of the flanks, as we consider it entirely dependent on the manner of breathing ; for at all times, if a horse is winded by exercise, so that he breathes quick and forcibly, he has also this heaving or working of his flanks.

Rowels

Rowels, Mr. Gibson says, are serviceable in pleurifies, and all inward inflammations : we do not see how, unless by raising one local inflammation, another is removed ; and this we believe may be the case, and indeed is observed to be a great use of blisters, by causing a translation of inflammation from within outwardly ; and so says Mr. Gibson. “ Blistering ointment does great service, rubbed over the brisket, on the foremost ribs, which only, he says, makes a revulsion ;” and revulsion here, we think, must mean a translation of inflammation ; and which we think is more readily and advantageously done by blistering, than by rowelling. Mr. Gibson observes horses to be subject to inflammation of the *mediastinum*, or membrane that separates the lobes of the lungs, and also of the midriff (or skirt sometimes called) but as these cases in horses are not to be known from the pleurisy, or an inflammation



tion of the lungs, we think it needless to say more of them.

Mr. Taplin is of the same opinion, that the distinction between these diseases is too nice in this animal, for certain discrimination: either displays symptoms he observes common to both, and that the treatment is exactly similar in each; nor is there any thing material to be observed in Mr. Taplin's treatment of these disorders, from what we have said, till he comes to an abatement of the disorder; "And the horse will eat mash of bran, with four ounces of honey to each, and will drink thin gruel for common drink, in each draught of which should be dissolved two ounces of cream of tartar." Now as he is to have this gruel and cream of tartar as common drink, we reckon the horse must have at least four draughts of it in a day, which will be half a pound of cream of tartar;

tartar ; and if he has four mashes, with four ounces of honey in each, will be a pound of honey, which we are persuaded will prove a very griping uneasy dose in the horse's stomach and guts, and greatly too purgative at this time. Mr. Taplin proceeds, " Every appearance of danger being dispelled, the further management may be regulated by the instructions under the article *Cold* ; but giving, he says, a ball every morning for a fortnight." The balls are made of Castile soap, gum ammoniac, annise, and cummin seeds. Now as Mr. Taplin leaves us altogether in the dark, as to the use of these balls " after every appearance of danger is over," by which we must understand a total removal of the disease, we do not comprehend what salutary purpose they are to answer. This seems to be on the plan of a Welsh surgeon (a self-made surgeon we mean) who, in curing a patient's sore leg,

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uses an application for the purpose of making it better than well, and in his bill charges an *item*, for curing the fore leg *quite*, after it was well. In seriousness, we are of opinion that medicine always does good ; for if it does not do the patient good, it does the doctor good ; and if these balls do not do the horse good, they will do the compounders good ; so we have nothing to say against them. Mr. Taplin, as soon as the horse is sufficiently recovered, puts him upon a gentle course of physic, “to prevent any ill effects from the viscidty of matter that has so long overloaded the vessels of the lungs ; or its acrimony, that may, by its retention there, so corrode or lacerate, as to form an *ulcer*, or promote the growth of *knots* or *tubercles*.” We certainly had no idea of any of these evils, after the fever and inflammation were subdued ; nor any apprehension of the formation of an ulcer ; but by

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the inflammation continuing, and going on to suppuration. These are firmly our sentiments, at the same time acknowledging our content in a subordinate degree of utility, and that the sublimity of Mr. Taplin's doctrine, is now and then far, very far out of our reach.

Mr. Bartlet does his book the credit, and his readers the benefit, of having literally copied *Gibson* on these diseases.

I shall close this subject of inflammation with the recital of a recent case:

I was lately taken by a friend to see a gentleman's horse, that was thought to be very dangerously disordered; it was a valuable stallion, and we found the disease to be a violently swelled and inflamed testicle, and a great symptomatic fever; the pulse  
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was betwixt sixty and seventy beats in a minute; I believe I may say 65, which I imagine in a horse will denote a degree of fever and inflammation, equal to the pulse at about 100 in man: and though we say horses have not the ague, or intermittent fever, yet in topical inflammations there will be at times an exacerbation or encrease of symptoms. At those times this horse was perfectly frantic; he spurned the litter and pavement, and bit his own sides in a violent manner. He had been bled before I saw him, and had taken *a drink a day*, for two or three days, from a neighbouring practitioner, who positively assured the gentleman the horse had no fever, and that the disorder was an *inward strain*; thus widely we differed as to the horse's case, which the gentleman observed, *Doctors* were too apt to do. However, I was earnestly requested to endeavour to relieve the horse. Two

quarts of blood, or somewhat more, were directly taken, and saved in a proper vessel in order to be inspected, and as it proved to be very highly inflamed and sizy, as much more was taken away the same evening, and a nitrous fever powder was directed to be given three times in the day, and plentiful cooling saturnine fomentations were applied to the part two or three times a day : to open the belly a little, he had a mild laxative drink, of an infusion of fenna and treacle. In a very few days the fever and local inflammation seemed to give way materially, the fits of exacerbation entirely left him, and the swelling of the part was greatly reduced ; indeed, we thought the horse getting quite well very fast ; but in about ten days, the testicle began to swell again, and in a very few days was more swelled than ever, but without occasioning a fever, or the violent pain the horse had before,

and



and there was a collection or deposition of a quantity of fluid; the swelling which now occupied also the whole sheath, was greatly cedematous, the other testicle all along quite well. I now thought the fomentation would be of little further service, and that an operation would be necessary; and as I did not profess surgery, I determined to ask a surgeon's assistance; I went to Mr. Hunter, who I knew as a philosopher, always interested himself in every thing useful in man or beast; Mr. Hunter being ill of the gout, I saw Mr. Home, to whom, after some other business, with some diffidence and delicacy I told him, I mentioned this horse's case. He replied, I need not have been diffident about it, and it seemed to be the case *they* wanted to examine, and he would go with me to the horse any morning, and should bring with him a gentleman, I have mentioned before, respecting the pulse,

pulse, and who was attending their (Mr. Hunter's and Mr. Home's) lectures, and putting himself to a great expence in education, with a design to practise farriery.

Mr. Home, however, Mr. Hunter being confined, had so many engagements, that he could not attend; but the gentleman mentioned, went with me to the horse: He found the parts greatly swelled and inflamed; but the inflammation, as I have observed, was now not so great as to raise a fever, nor to occasion any great pain, so that local application seemed all that was necessary.

The above gentleman advised topical bleeding; and twenty leeches were endeavoured to be applied, but ten only would take: the use of the fomentation was continued, or rather renewed, as it had been  
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left off a day or two, and an emollient poultice was applied, as well to suspend the testicle, as for its use as a poultice ; but it is with great difficulty poultices are applied to the testicles of horses, and the anatomical structure of the scrotum and testicles of a horse, does not make suspension so necessary as in man. Much advantage being gained by these means, ten more leeches were applied the next day ; the fomentation and poultice were continued ; in a few days the swelling greatly abated, and a fluctuation of matter was plainly perceived, and in about a week, the abscess burst, or nature *performed the operation*, which I have said, I thought would be necessary : Every thing goes on well ; but the horse has a breaking out of little glandular knots, for which he has taken an alterative antimonial powder, for a fortnight. The breaking out still remains, and an enlargement,

ment and induration, that seems to threaten a scirrhus testicle; otherwise, the horse is well and hearty, and works every day; and as a more powerful alterative, and yet so safe, that he may constantly work with it, he is now taking *hemlock*, with the antimonial powder; and which I doubt not will prove a very efficacious and useful medicine in farriery, where the most powerful alteratives are frequently wanting, as in the *Farcy*; and as an alterative medicine, perhaps we cannot go beyond *cicuta* and *calomel*. I have spoken of this case, as an inflamed testicle only, to be the more readily understood; for as the same means are to be used, whether the testicle itself, or the integuments or coats are more materially affected, it is needless to puzzle the reader with anatomical nicety. The diet of the horse was slender and cooling, as mild mashies of bran, or bran and malt, with a plenty of water, a little warm, or white water.

Mr.

Mr. Clarke, in his late book on horses, considers the qualities of that great article in farriery—nitre; amongst his commendations of it, he says it is an antidote to putrefaction: He means, no doubt, that it possesses that quality in putrid diseases; but here he is altogether mistaken; and we apprehend he has taken up this idea, and published it, upon no better grounds, than its being a most powerful antiseptic in inanimate substances, as every cook and falter of meat, well knows; but a most dangerous and unwarrantable conclusion is drawn from hence, viz. "that it is a remedy in putrid diseases:" for the contrary, indeed, is now so well known and established a fact, that we are sorry we have, at this time a-day, after so much has been said and wrote on the subject, to set Mr. Clarke right in this important matter; than which, we think, (the nature of putrefaction, and effects of antiseptics

tics in putrid diseases), phytic does not furnish a subject of greater moment and consequence. We trust that Mr. Clarke, from this hint, will see and consider this matter in its proper light, in his treatise on the *Diseases of Horses*; which we are told is to follow the very valuable book (notwithstanding this error) he has just published. The Monthly Reviewers, who have done this gentleman justice, as to the merit of his book, if they had read it, however, with a little more attention, would have remarked this error; as in a controversy on the subject some years ago, between Mr. (now Dr.) Alexander, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Prosser, of London, they deliver themselves thus: "From Mr. P.'s remarks on the *Experimental Essays* of Mr. Alexander we collect the following particulars;—That the putrefactive process in the dead and in the living animal, is widely different.—Those

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substances which resist putrefaction in the dead, do not therefore necessarily produce the same effect in the living body ; and that *nitre*, so strongly recommended by Mr. Alexander, as an antiseptic, or, as Mr. Clarke has it, ‘ an antidote to putrefaction,’ will promote, rather than resist this process in the living body, by still further weakening the powers of the circulation.” Monthly Review for November, 1769.

It is somewhat unfortunate, that these blunders and ill-founded ideas, follow one after another, from the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where the school of physic stands so very high in reputation, and to whose doctrines we may suppose Mr. Clarke attached and benefited by. And after thus correcting this error in “ *The King’s Farrier for the Kingdom of Scotland*,” the Author will look forward with some hopes of the

honorary appointment of *Farrier* to the King in England.

Some years after this, we have the respectable authority of Dr. Millman, who had occasion to consider this matter, in his “ *Enquiry into the Source from whence the Symptoms of the Scurvy, and of Putrid Fevers arise.*” Dr. Millman’s manner of speaking on this occasion, is as masterly and elegant, as the subject is interesting. The circumstance of my having published the same sentiments and ideas many years before, was unknown to the Doctor ; and it was not recollected by the Reviewers, in their account of his book ; for they gave the Doctor credit for the very same sentiments and opinions, in 1782, they had reviewed from me in 1769. I put these gentlemen in mind of this oversight, and in one of their following reviews,

reviews, they have published an answer to my note, with this apology ; “ That they were like their brethren, mortal men, and that consequently the *corps* of Reviewers of to-day, were not acquainted with subjects reviewed years before.” However, I could have wished they had been more circumspect, as guardians of my *right* and property, if I may so say, and which perhaps I valued very highly ; and being, like my brethren, a mortal man, I might have lost the opportunity of doing myself justice. It was not a little flattering to me, to find our notions of the matter so exactly coincided ; for if I was behind-hand with the Doctor in manner and eloquence, I was equal with him in matter and substance. In one point we differed : the Doctor says, it was with great diffidence that, against the authorities which had maintained the contrary opinions, he ventured to doubt their truth and propriety.

priety. For my part, I had no diffidence about the matter, when about a dozen years before, in my remarks on Mr. Alexander's Essays (annexed to a Treatise on the Derby Neck) I observed that the putrefactive principle in living bodies, and inanimate substances, were materially different, and as quoted above from the Review. Dr. Millman relates the principle upon which Sir J. Pringle founded his doctrine of antiseptics, and pointed out those hasty inferences by which they were attempted to be made guides to us in the prevention, and in the cure of putrid diseases, and says "it is not the accuracy of the experiments which he ventures to impeach, but the applications, and the conclusions from them, which he presumes to question. The furnace or crucible of a chymist, the Doctor observes, affords no fair criterion by which we are to judge of the nature of a medicine; or that the change  
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which it produces on the dead fibre, is to be a rule by which we are to estimate the probable effects of it on the animated machine. We shall even find," continues the Doctor, "that substances which have an antiseptic effect on the dead fibres of animals, often produce putrid symptoms in the living body."

"*Haller*," says Dr. Millman, "faithfully records these pernicious effects of *alkalies*; and when he compares these practical facts with the result of the late experiments, proving the properties of the alkalies, he seems to be quite confounded; and admits, that there is a contradiction between them, which he is unable to reconcile."—Thus much we doubt not of being sufficient to shew the impropriety and effects of nitre in putrid diseases: were more authorities wanting after Dr. Millman, we have the  
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never-to-be-forgotten Huxham, Fothergill, and Dr. Heilham on the jail fever. Dr. Fothergill, I believe, it is well known, obtained that high rank and honourable esteem, and preference he held in his profession, principally from being the first in observing, and pointing out, the dangerous consequences of reducing the powers of nature, by evacuations and *antiphlogistics* in the putrid fore throat; and we find Sir John Pringle himself, after a few days' illness in such disorders, was obliged to forego the use of some of his favourite antiseptics, *nitre* especially.

Mr. Clarke quotes Bracken as to the quantity of blood in a horse; who says, " there pass through the heart of a horse 1800 times four ounces, or 450 pounds of blood, in an hour: now, the common received opinion is, that the whole mass of blood in man is  
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about 25 pounds, (professors of anatomy, however, differ so widely as to this matter, that by some it is rated at not more than one third of this quantity), and in a horse six times as much; and, therefore, according to this allowance, a quantity of blood equal to the whole mass passes through the heart ten times in an hour in man, and in one hour and 12 minutes in a horse; and from hence it may be observed, how necessary it is to take away greater quantities of blood in many cases than is commonly practised; for what sensible effect can the taking away a quart of blood from a horse, have upon him, if we consider that he has near 225 times as much in his body?" Here is a very erroneous calculation: 450 pounds of blood, Bracken says, passes through the heart in an hour; that the whole quantity of blood in man is about 25 pounds, and in a horse six times as much; that a quantity of blood,

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equal to the whole mass, passes the heart ten times in an hour in man, and in an hour and 12 minutes in a horse; 450 pounds in an hour will therefore be 540 pounds in an hour and 12 minutes, and the tenth of 540 will be only 54; and he says, the quantity of blood in a horse is six times 25 pounds, (the quantity in man) or 150 pounds: afterwards he makes the quantity of blood in a horse 450 pounds; for he says, what sensible effect can the taking away a quart of blood have, if we consider he has near 225 times as much in his body? Two hundred and twenty-five quarts must be 450 pints, or pounds; and rating the quantity of blood in a horse at 150 pounds, which we take to be very near the mark, and that quantity passing the heart ten times in an hour and twelve minutes, it will be in that time 1500 pounds, instead of 540. What can we say for these mistakes in Bracken, (an ingenious sen-

senfible man and a fcholar) and on a point, too, which he himfelf confiders of the greateft moment to be well underftood ! Muft we fuppofe him fond of good ale, or fome other good liquor, that entirely divefted him of the accuracy of calculation ? and that he wrote this part of his fubject, when he was *in his cups* ?

Mr. Clarke, we have faid, here quotes Bracken, but not very carefully copies his miftakes. Bracken ftates, that the whole quantity of blood in a man paffes the heart ten times in an hour ; and in a horfe, in an hour and twelve minutes : Mr. Clarke fays, “ The quantity of blood in man paffes the heart in an hour, and in an hour and twelve minutes in a horfe ; ” leaving out the ten times, which makes the trifling difference between him and Bracken of *nine tenths*.

We deem it as proper and necessary for every author to examine and consider the maxims and notions of his predecessors, as it is to produce his reasons and arguments in defence of his own doctrines and opinions; otherwise his work may prove to be, if not an imposition, a useless intrusion on the public: but we certainly wish not to have such petty faults and mistakes to remark upon.

Mr. Clarke observes the diseases of horses to be similar to those of man, abating of those arising from (a very fruitful source of disease indeed), the passions of the mind; but exclusive of these, the diseases of horses fall very short of the number in man. Our Viterinarian author, we suppose, will have no objection to our striking off his list, the small-pox; the measles, chicken-pox, and whooping-cough; and, with his permission, we also  
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except the *ague*. We observe to Mr. Clarke, on this occasion, that the circumstance of horses not having either the small-pox, nor the measles, first gave us the idea of their not having the *ague*.

Mr. Clarke says, that horses wild, or in a natural state, are free from disorders: that they are more free from disorder than horses in use, is certainly true; but that they are not entirely free from disorder, is equally so.

Mr. Clarke takes blood away in inflammatory cases, to the quantity of six or eight pounds, or a gallon, at a bleeding: making the whole quantity 450 pounds, as he says, (after Bracken), what effect can the taking a quart have, from 225 times as much? tho' at the same time he tells us, that a horse has six times as much blood as a man, six times 25 pounds, which is 150 pounds; and which  
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we give as the true general standard, over or under we hardly need mention, according to the size of the horse. Mr. Clarke, however, takes a gallon away, whether from 450 pounds, or from 150 pounds, (in which quantities there is a difference of two thirds) and this may be done with propriety either way; the quantity to be taken, to be determined more by the state of the pulse, and the effect bleeding has upon it, as to its strength, quickness, fullness and hardness, than by the whole quantity of blood.

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E R R A T A.

Page 3, line 18. *Great affinity* read *greater affinity*.  
9, 18. *Solleyfelt* read *Solleyfell*.  
98, 20. *After a quarter* dele *or*.  
118, 15. *Medinaftium* read *mediaftinum*.

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